



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

Date of Issuance: June 17, 2016

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FY 2017 Water and Sewer Budget and Rates Approved by Commission

Following a public hearing held on June 7, 2016, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission met on Thursday, June 16, 2016 to vote on the proposed fiscal year 2017 (FY17) budget, capital improvement program, schedule of rates, fees and charges, and revisions to Commission rules and regulations.

The Commission voted to approve a combined water and sewer rate increase of approximately 4.0% for residential customers. The rate increases will be applied to water and sewer use beginning July 1, 2016, and our customers will see the rate increases beginning with bills issued in August 2016. For FY17, the residential water rate will increase from \$2.78 per 100 cubic feet (CCF) to \$2.89 per CCF. The residential sewer rate will increase from \$4.56 to \$4.74 per CCF. The typical household water and sewer bill is estimated to increase an average of \$36.60 annually, or approximately \$3.05 per month.

“These rate increases are primarily driven by necessary improvements to the water and sewer infrastructure which includes critical repairs, upgrades, and replacements, as well as unfunded federal and state regulatory mandates. We are sensitive to how rate increases affect our customers, and continue to do everything that we can to balance the need to reinvest in the water and sewer system, our obligation to meet regulations, and our commitment to keeping rates as affordable as possible,” said Daniel Rodriguez, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

The Commission also approved the proposed revisions to the Rules and Regulations, the FY17 Total Operating Budget of \$61.1 million (which includes total operations and debt service), the FY17 Capital Improvement Program Budget of \$15.4 million, and the three-year Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal years 2017-2019 which projects capital spending totaling \$95.1 million over the next three fiscal years.



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Some of the major projects planned or in progress include:

- The ongoing South Transmission Main Replacement project, which consists of replacing the 6-mile pipeline from Provin Mountain to the Route 5 rotary by the South End Bridge. Construction is expected to be complete this summer. The estimated project cost is \$24 million.
- Infrastructure improvements which include the rehabilitation of 8,345 feet of sewer main as well as replacement of 334 feet of sewer main and 80 feet of water main at multiple locations throughout the City. This work is substantially complete at an estimated project cost of \$1.6 million. The Commission also completed the preliminary design for additional infrastructure improvements to be constructed at multiple locations throughout the City in FY17. This project consists of replacing 3,700 feet and rehabilitating 6,300 feet of sewer main, and replacement of 7,400 feet of water main at an estimated project of \$6 million.
- The Main Interceptor Rehabilitation and CSO Improvements project, which consists of rehabilitating 3,200 feet of 60 and 66-inch diameter sewer pipe and associated manholes as well as three CSO structures along the Connecticut River. Construction began in June of 2015 and is expected to continue into FY17. The estimated project cost is \$23.4 million.

END